

BRIEFING

CELEBRATING • OUR • SESQUICENTENNIAL



AUGUST 2008

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SUBURBAN WORLD

OLD TOWN HALL DISPLAYS IRV NORLING PHOTOS

MORE THAN 10,000

Bloomington photographer Irwin "Irv" Norling are on display at Old Town Hall – the "new" home of the Bloomington Historical Society. The collection will be available for viewing through October 2008, after which the photos will rotate in a permanent exhibit at the museum.

Visit the Old Town Hall, 10200 Penn Ave. S., Tuesdays - Thursdays, Saturdays, noon - 4 p.m.; and Sundays, 1 - 5 p.m.

FARMERS MARKET

SHOP THE MARKET FOR FRESH PRODUCE AND MORE

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE to buy from local farmers, growers and producers. Arrive early and have your pick of the freshest vegetables, baked goods, flowers and more.

The Farmers Market is open Saturdays, through October 11, 7 a.m. - noon, in Civic Plaza's west parking lot, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road.

Living Green in Bloomington

NEW SUSTAINABLE SATURDAYS

Stop by the Farmers Market for some fresh produce and check out these sustainable living workshops: *Green Cleaning Products, Green Roofs and the Benefits of Organic Food, Saturday, August 16*, and *Alternative Energy Sources, Saturday, September 20, 10 - 11 a.m.*, in the Center for the Arts Atrium, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road.

For more information, visit the City's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Sustainability, or contact Planner Michaela Ahern at 952-563-8928.



BLOOMINGTON - YESTERDAY

LAYING BLOOMINGTON'S FOUNDATION

THE CHRISTENSEN-SCHERMERHORN FAMILY

ANKER CHRISTENSEN came from Denmark in 1931. Christensen wore many hats. He was a farmer, bricklayer and contractor who started out working for his uncle in Minneapolis. Anxious to venture out on his own, he moved his wife Esther and three daughters to Bloomington and soon found a home, as well as a job, at the Foote Farm on 94th Street and Penn Avenue. Christensen farmed 320 acres of land before he began work on his own as a builder and mason contractor. If you owned a brick home around 90th Street and Humboldt in the 1950s, chances are, Anker Christensen laid the bricks. See page 3 for tips on how to update homes built during this era.

Christensen's daughter Lilly Schermerhorn remembers helping her father on the Foote Farm. Schermerhorn said she and her dad farmed potatoes, sweet corn and a variety of vegetables, in addition to raising cattle and chickens.

"Everything was horse-drawn back then, so farming was hard work, but we had lots of help from our neighbors," Schermerhorn said. "We had so much help with thrashing that it was actually fun, because everyone knew everyone and we just made a good time of it."

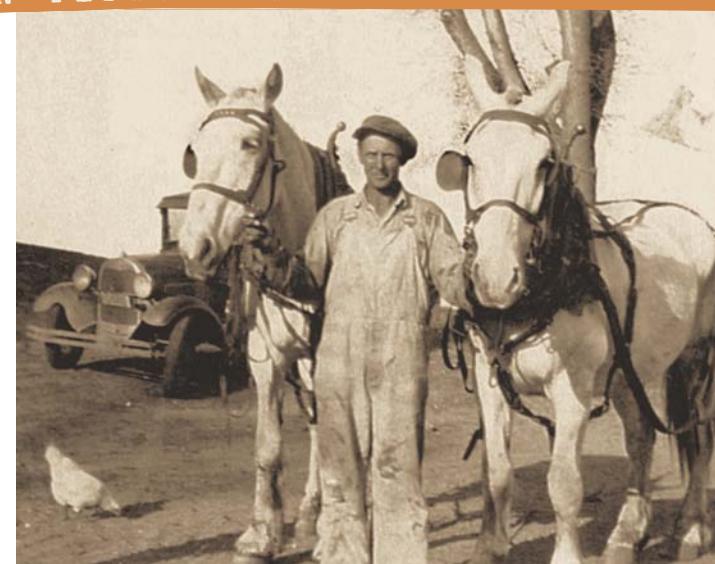


Photo courtesy of Lilly Schermerhorn.

AIRPORT SOUTH DISTRICT PLAN DEVELOPING A VISION FOR THE FUTURE



THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON and the Port Authority have selected Wallace Roberts & Todd (WRT), a nationally known planning and design firm, as consultant for the *Airport South District Plan*. The plan will guide future land use, transportation, urban design and redevelopment of this important commercial and employment center.

The WRT team will prepare a plan for future development of the Airport South District, located between the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the Minnesota River. This unique district comprises two-thirds of Bloomington's commercial development potential and has many advantages including: the Mall of America, Bloomington Central Station, light rail transit, a wildlife refuge, an international airport and two major highways.

"The purpose of the study is to figure out how to best combine these advantages so that the whole area is perceived as unique and attractive to businesses, residents and visitors," Director of Community Development Larry Lee said. "This collaboration will involve the specific expertise of many

people. We have a lot of area to develop, and we have to plan carefully."

WRT, known for its *Baltimore Inner Harbor Master Plan*, was selected based on the cutting-edge experience and creativity of its consultants, and its experience with mixed-use, transit-oriented, sustainable development. Incorporating energy efficiency and sustainability will be important, according to Lee. Criterion Planners, an urban planning firm that specializes in sustainability of communities and regions, will advise the City.

City employees play a major role in the project. Planner Julie Farnham will

serve as the Airport South Project Manager/Coordinator and Senior Planner Bob Sharlin will serve as the Chief Project Planner. Senior Civil Engineer Schane Rudlang and Acting Port Authority Administrator Jill Hutchmacher are also planning the project.

Residents, businesses and public agencies attended a study kickoff meeting in May. The study is scheduled for completion by fall 2009.

For more information or to view a the kickoff meeting, visit the City's Web site, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Airport South District Plan, or call Bob Sharlin at 952-563-8925.



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